

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 18164 040655Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 INR-05 AF-04 /031 W  
-----033805 040657Z /11/73

P 030917Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1177  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 18164

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA ONE)

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: ECRE, EG  
SUBJ: NERSESIAN PROJECT FOR DIVERSION OF NILE WATERS TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF (A) STATE 254721, (B) KHARTOUM 3826

1. WE ARE NOT ABLE ASSESS TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF NERSESIAN  
PROJECT, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE IN ANY EVENT THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD  
REACT FAVORABLY TO IT. NILE RIVER IS SO MUCH A PART OF EGYPTIAN  
NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS THAT ANY SCHEME FOR DIVERTING EVEN A PART OF  
IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OPPOSED, BOTH BY GOE AND BY POULAR  
OPINION.

2. PRESENT AVAILABILITY OF WATER FROM RIVER EXCEEDS EGYPT'S NEEDS  
FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES IN AREA (3 TO 5 PERCENT OF COUNTRY'S LAND  
SURFACE) NOW UNDER CULTIVATION AND NEEDS COULD BE REDUCED BY SWITCH  
TO SPRINKLER OR DRIP IRRIGATION. HOWEVER, WITH NARROW NILE VALLEY  
ENCLOSED BY DESERT, POPULAR VIEW IS THAT EGYPT IS COUNTRY LACKING  
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IN WATER RESOURCES, NOT ONE WITH WATER TO SPARE. GOE, MOREOVER,  
HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR USING ADDITIONAL WATER IN EXPANSION OF  
CULTIVATED AREA - THROUGH LAND RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
REGIONS SUCH AS NEW VALLEY IN WESTERN DESEET - TO SERVE POPULATION  
INCREASING BY ONE MILLION PERSONS EACH YEAR.

3. WITH SPECIFIC RESPECT TO SAUDI ARABIA, WE THINK EGYPTIANS WOULD

FIND IT DIFFICULT UNDERSTAND WHY COUNTRY WITH WORLD'S GREATEST  
OIL RESOURCES SHOULD ALSO BE ENDOWED, BY GRACE OF EGYPT, WITH  
NILE WATER. HOWEVER, GOE IS BEHOLDEN TO SAG FOR FINANCIAL HELP  
AND IF SCHEME WERE STRONGLY PRESSED BY KING KHALID, FADH OR OTHER  
SENIOR SAUDI OFFICIALS ON SADAT, LATTER MIGHT RELUCTANTLY HAVE TO  
ACQUIESCE. HE WOULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT A FIGHT, HOWEVER.

EILTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), RIVERS, WATER DIVERSION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 03-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAIRO18164  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Film Number:** D770417-0963, D770406-0014  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAIRO  
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**Line Count:** 69  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
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**Message ID:** 44da270e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS, LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 254721, 77 KHARTOUM 3826  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 391864  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NERSESIAN PROJECT FOR DIVERSION OF NILE WATERS TO SAUDI ARABIA  
**TAGS:** ECRE, PBOR, EG, SA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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